

Message Text

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44

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:HGMOEN:JKB

APPROVED BY EUR - AAHARTMAN

H - MR. NELSON (SUBS)

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R 031144Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080785

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROSENTHAL CODEL

REF: ROME 4760

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL APRIL 2, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN EXPRESSED DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT ROSENTHAL CODEL WAS PLANNING TO SEEK MEETINGS WITH ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) LEADERS DURING ITS TRIP TO ITALY APRIL 25-28. HARTMAN STRESSED THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD BE CONSTRUED IN ITALY AS US ENDORSEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF PCI. IN OUR VIEW, TO ENHANCE ITALIAN COMMUNIST CLAIMS TO LEGITIMACY IN THIS WAY COULD ONLY FACILITATE PCI EFFORTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL THAT WOULD IMPLY.

2. ROSENTHAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER CLIFFORD HACKETT HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTMENTS U--H PCI. CONGRESSMAN STRESSED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE IN THIS REGARD AND THAT IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH ALL MEMBERS BEFORE DECISION WAS TAKEN. AS FOR HIS OWN
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PERSONAL VIEW, ROSENTHAL SAID HE COULD SEE THE ARGUMENTS

ON EITHER SIDE AND WOULD CONSIDER HARTMAN'S VIEWS CAREFULLY.

3. HARTMAN WILL REITERATE THE SAME POINTS AT LUNCH WITH
CODEL MEMBERS ON APRIL 13. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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